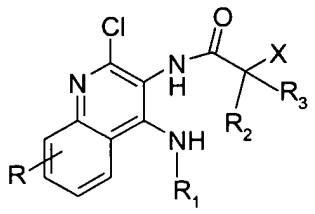
Amendments to the Claims:

1-47 (canceled)

48 (new) A process for preparing a compound of the formula



wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen; straight chain or branched chain alkyl containing one to ten carbon atoms and substituted straight chain or branched chain alkyl containing one to ten carbon atoms, wherein the substituent is selected from the group consisting of cycloalkyl containing three to six carbon atoms and cycloalkyl containing three to six carbon atoms substituted by straight chain or branched chain alkyl containing one to four carbon atoms; straight chain or branched chain alkenyl containing two to ten carbon atoms and substituted straight chain or branched chain alkenyl containing two to ten carbon atoms, wherein the substituent is selected from the group consisting of cycloalkyl containing three to six carbon atoms and cycloalkyl containing three to six carbon atoms substituted by straight chain or branched chain alkyl containing one to four carbon atoms; hydroxyalkyl of one to six carbon atoms; alkoxyalkyl wherein the alkoxy moiety contains one to four carbon atoms and the alkyl moiety contains one to six carbon atoms; benzyl; (phenyl)ethyl; and phenyl; said benzyl, (phenyl)ethyl or phenyl substituent being optionally substituted on the benzene ring by one or two moieties independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl of one to four carbon atoms and alkoxy of one to four carbon atoms with the proviso that when said benzene ring is substituted by two of said moieties, then the moieties together contain no more than six carbon atoms;

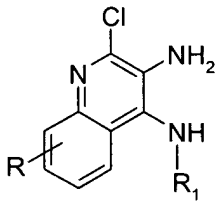
R_2 and R_3 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl of one to four carbon atoms, phenyl, and substituted phenyl wherein the substituent is

selected from the group consisting of alkyl of one to four carbon atoms, alkoxy of one to four carbon atoms, and halogen;

X is selected from the group consisting of alkoxy containing one to four carbon atoms, alkoxyalkyl wherein the alkoxy moiety contains one to four carbon atoms and the alkyl moiety contains one to four carbon atoms, hydroxyalkyl of one to four carbon atoms, alkylamido wherein the alkyl group contains one to four carbon atoms, amino, substituted amino wherein the substituent is alkyl or hydroxyalkyl of one to four carbon atoms, azido, hydroxy, 1-morpholino, 1-pyrrolidino, and alkylthio of one to four carbon atoms; and

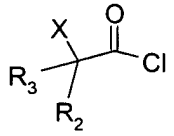
R is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, straight chain or branched chain alkoxy containing one to four carbon atoms, and straight chain or branched chain alkyl containing one to four carbon atoms; or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof, comprising the steps of:

(i) providing a compound of the formula



wherein R and R_1 are as defined above;

(ii) reacting the compound from step (i) with a carboxylic acid halide of the formula



wherein R_2, R_3 and X are as defined above; and

(iii) isolating the compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof.

49 (new) A process according to Claim 48 wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of straight chain or branched chain alkyl containing one to ten carbon atoms and hydroxyalkyl of one to six carbon atoms.

50 (new) A process according to Claim 49 wherein R_1 is 2-methylpropyl or 2-hydroxy-2-methylpropyl.

51 (new) A process according to Claim 48 wherein R_2 and R_3 are hydrogen and X is selected from the group consisting of alkoxy containing one to four carbon atoms and alkoxyalkyl wherein the alkoxy moiety contains one to four carbon atoms and the alkyl moiety contains one to four carbon atoms.

52 (new) A process according to Claim 51 wherein X is ethoxy or methoxymethyl.

53 (new) A process according to Claim 48 wherein R is hydrogen.